

From: [R6HarveyRICT](#)
To: [R6HarveyInfo](#)
Subject: FW: Daily News Digest, Wednesday, Sept. 13
Date: Wednesday, September 13, 2017 1:46:55 PM
Attachments: [Daily News Digest 09132017.pdf](#)
[ATT00001.htm](#)

From: Carroll, Craig
Sent: Wednesday, September 13, 2017 1:46:29 PM (UTC-06:00) Central Time (US & Canada)
To: Smalley, Bryant
Cc: Campbell, Todd; R6HarveyRICT; Davis, Todd H.
Subject: Fwd: Daily News Digest, Wednesday, Sept. 13

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Hubbard, Joseph" <Hubbard.Joseph@epa.gov>
To: "R6Press" <R6Press@epa.gov>
Subject: Daily News Digest, Wednesday, Sept. 13

Hurricane Response:

1 Zoned for Displacement, City Lab, 9/13/17

<https://www.citylab.com/equity/2017/09/climate-changes-inevitable-displacement-of-most-vulnerable/539232/>

Hilton Kelley has been sounding off on Facebook Live the past few days about families who evacuated their homes to escape Hurricane Harvey and are now getting eviction notices. The families live in Port Arthur, Texas, the small Gulf Coast city about 90 miles east of Houston, but are currently scattered across Louisiana and Texas. Kelley himself had to evacuate—his fourth time doing so in the last 15 years due to hurricane flooding—but was able to make it back to his home last week.

2 Harvey Flooding Potentially Compromised 650 Chemical Plants, Triple Pundit, 9/13/2017

<http://www.triplepundit.com/2017/09/harvey-flooding-potentially-compromised-650-chemical-plants/>

The Union of Concerned Scientists has assembled a list of facilities potentially impacted by flooding related to Hurricane Harvey, and the picture may surprise those who focus on Superfund sites. There are a lot of potential chemical stews brewing along the Gulf coast — 650 of them.

3 Galena Park gasoline spill dwarfed other Harvey leaks, but stayed out of public eye for days, Houston Chron, 9/13/17

<http://www.houstonchronicle.com/business/article/Galena-Park-gasoline-spill-dwarfed-other-Harvey-12192956.php>

Jesse Perez, 41, a longtime resident of Galena Park, said he had grown accustomed to the smells of refineries and other plants in this heavily industrial community on the east side of Houston. But in that days that followed Hurricane Harvey's departure from the area, he said he never smelled such strong gasoline odors in his neighborhood. "It was a heavy smell, and it even carried inside our house," Perez said. "We had to put air fragrances in the rooms just to air out the house."

4 Swarmed with mosquitoes after Harvey, Texas calls in the US Air Force, Quartz, 9/13/17

<https://qz.com/1075935/swarmed-with-mosquitoes-after-harvey-texas-calls-in-the-us-air-force/>

In an effort to combat the swarms of mosquitoes apparently making mating grounds out of the standing



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water left behind from Hurricane Harvey, Texas has called in the big planes. The state asked the US Air Force to spray 6 million acres in the state with insecticide from its low-flying C-130 cargo planes. The Air Force has long used its planes in mosquito-control missions.

5 Will Rebuilding After Harvey and Irma Make More Flooding Inevitable?, New Yorker, 9/13/17

<https://www.newyorker.com/news/daily-comment/will-rebuilding-after-harvey-and-irma-make-more-flooding-inevitable>

The aim of the National Flood Insurance Program, which was created by Congress, in 1968, in the aftermath of Hurricane Betsy, is to provide "affordable insurance to property owners." The program offers what amounts to subsidized coverage, and according to its critics, and also to some of its supporters, the N.F.I.P. has had the perverse effect of encouraging rebuilding in areas where homes and businesses probably shouldn't have been built in the first place.

6 Iowa corn growers see benefits of lifted ethanol restrictions after Hurricane Harvey, KCRG, 9/13/17

<http://www.kcrg.com/content/news/iowa-corn-growers-see-benefits-of-lifted-ethanol-restrictions-after-Hurricane-Harvey--444183373.html>

After Hurricane Harvey, consumers saw gas prices rise in Iowa and around the country. This is the trend from [GasBuddy.com](#), where the red line shows the spike in Iowa gas prices, compared to the national trend in blue. The hurricane shut down oil and gas refineries so the EPA lifted certain restrictions on ethanol fuels to help after the storm.

7 Texas begins long march toward recovery from Hurricane Harvey, Tribune, 9/12/17

http://baycitytribune.com/news/article_ad481804-9835-11e7-8f7f-1312ca29281a.html

As contaminated waters receded and mountains of debris from flooded homes and ruined belongings grew last week, a picture of post-hurricane Texas developed and the process of weighing impacts to lives, property and infrastructure began.

Gov. Greg Abbott delivered a series of announcements and proclamations related to catastrophic flooding and wind damage brought by Hurricane Harvey to more than 50 Gulf Coast and inland counties in late August and early September.

8 Weeks after Harvey, floodwaters still pose threats to Houston residents, CBS, 9/12/17

<https://www.cbsnews.com/news/harvey-floodwaters-threats-houston/>

Nearly three weeks after Harvey drowned Houston, people like Mike Gregg are still digging through the debris, and realizing just how much they lost. Two feet of water soaked everything, including the family piano. "It was my wife's," Gregg said. "Something that was very valuable to her."

9 EPA approves emergency fuel waivers for 38 states, Washington, D.C., Agri Pulse, 9/13/17

<https://www.agri-pulse.com/articles/9837-epa-approves-emergency-fuel-waivers-for-38-states-washington-dc>

As a result of the continuing impacts on refineries near the Gulf Coast and disruption to the fuel distribution system caused by Hurricanes Harvey and Irma, Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Scott Pruitt exercised EPA's emergency fuel waiver authority to help ensure an adequate supply of fuel throughout the country.

10 Terminals, refiners clean up spills after Harvey, Argus, 9/12/17

<http://www.argusmedia.com/news/article/?id=1533319>

Refineries and terminal operators around Houston have reported spilling thousands of gallons of diesel and gasoline in the aftermath of Hurricane Harvey. Magellan Midstream Partners says hurricane-related flooding caused the spill of 10,988 bl of gasoline from two storage tanks at its Galena Park facility, which is located next to the Houston Ship Channel. Some of the spilled gasoline flowed into a ditch near the channel and a "small amount" reached the water, the company says.

11 (Video) Analysis Estimates 4.6 Million Pounds Of Chemicals Spilled During Hurricane Harvey, Beaumont Enterprise,

<http://www.beaumontenterprise.com/news/media/Analysis-Estimates-4-6-Million-Pounds-Of-1020092.php>

Flooding from Hurricane Harvey overwhelmed existing safety precautions at many chemical plants. According to Business Insider, the floods released 4.6 million pounds of chemicals overall--some carcinogenic. Advocates have expressed concern about potential health effects, but federal and state representatives said there is little reason for alarm. The EPA is working with Texas state regulators to clean up spills from a dozen industrial facilities. However, representatives say it's still too early to estimate the amounts spilled.

Around the Region:

9 The 10 costliest hurricanes in U.S. history, Times Picayune, 9/13/17

http://www.nola.com/hurricane/index.ssf/2017/09/10_costliest_hurricanes_in.html#incart_river_index

The 10 costliest hurricanes in U.S. history, even when damage estimates are adjusted for inflation, all occurred in the past 30 years. All but two of them struck in the 21st century. The storms hit Florida (6), Louisiana (4) and Texas (2), as well as Alabama, Mississippi, New Jersey, North Carolina and South Carolina (1 each). Most of the big ones struck more than one coastal state.

10 First recorded hurricane on Gulf Coast made landfall 300 years ago: report, Times Picayune, 9/12/17

http://www.nola.com/environment/index.ssf/2017/09/the_first_recorded_hurricane_t.html#incart_river_index

Floodwaters in two Houston neighborhoods have been contaminated with bacteria and toxins that can make people sick, testing organized by The New York Times has found. Residents will need to take precautions to return safely to their homes, public health experts said. It is not clear how far the toxic waters have spread. But Fire Chief Samuel Peña of Houston said over the weekend that there had been breaches at numerous waste treatment plants. The Environmental Protection Agency said on Monday that 40 of 1,219 such plants in the area were not working.

11 Post-Harvey, Houston officials hope Congress is up for funding Ike Dike, Texas Tribune, 9/12/17

<https://www.texastribune.org/2017/09/12/after-dismissing-need-storm-surge-barrier-sylvester-turner-says-housto/>

Houston Mayor Sylvester Turner on Tuesday gave his strongest endorsement to date for constructing a physical coastal barrier to protect the region from deadly storm surge during hurricanes. Though such a barrier system would not have guarded against the unrelenting and unprecedented rain Hurricane Harvey dumped on the area, Turner — one of the region's last leaders to endorse the "coastal spine" concept — said at a Tuesday news conference that he believes it is crucial.

12 Harvey, Irma could boost oil glut by 43 million barrels, Houston Chron, 9/11/17

<http://www.houstonchronicle.com/business/energy/article/Harvey-Irma-could-add-43-million-barrels-to-U-S-12188157.php&cmpid=twitter-premium?cmpid=twitter-premium>

The nation's oil stockpile could surge by tens of millions of barrels this month after Hurricane Harvey paralyzed the Gulf Coast refining complex, Goldman Sachs said Monday. The investment bank believes U.S. oil inventories could end the month 43 million barrels larger in the wake of Harvey and Hurricane Irma, which began pummeling Florida over the weekend.

13 Harris County Commissioners Approve Funding For New Stormwater Basins, Houston Public

Media, 9/12/17

<http://www.houstonpublicmedia.org/articles/news/2017/09/12/236893/harris-county-commissioners-approve-funding-for-new-stormwater-basins/>

Harris County Commissioners have approved more than \$1 million to improve flood control. Much of the money will help build new ponds to hold stormwater along Houston-area bayous. One of them is a more than \$500,000 project in the Inwood Forest area along White Oak Bayou. Another would be built along Little Cypress Creek in Northwestern Harris County, and another in Aldine near Greens Bayou is moving forward as well.

14 FOLLOWING HURRICANE HARVEY, TEXAS GAS PRICES ARE ALREADY COMING DOWN, Texas Standard, 9/11/17

<http://www.texasstandard.org/stories/categories/energy-environment/>

Despite reduced gasoline production in the areas of Texas affected by Harvey, prices should return to just above \$2 per gallon, by the end of the year. Matt Smith, director of commodity research at ClipperData, says that while crude oil prices waver, natural gas prices remain unchanged.

15 Tracking Harvey's financial toll: New damage estimate rises to nearly \$200 billion, Dallas Morning News, 9/13/17

<https://www.dallasnews.com/news/harvey/2017/09/12/tracking-harveys-financial-toll-new-damage-estimate-rises-nearly-200-billion>

Two university researchers who study flood damage are out with a new estimate that would establish Hurricane Harvey as the costliest storm in U.S. history. Michael Hicks of Ball State University and Mark Burton of the University of Tennessee predict damage to homes, businesses and public infrastructure along the Texas Gulf Coast will end up costing roughly \$198 billion. That exceeds the price tag they put on Hurricane Katrina, which in today's dollars would have totaled \$194 billion.

16 Texas sues Dallas-area gas station operator over Hurricane Harvey price gouging allegations

<https://www.dallasnews.com/news/harvey/2017/09/12/texas-sues-dallas-area-gas-station-operator-hurricane-harvey-price-gouging-allegations>

Consumer complaints about price gouging were making waves across social media channels following Hurricane Harvey. Now, Attorney General Ken Paxton's office is taking action against some businesses. Paxton's office filed lawsuits Tuesday against three companies — one of them a local gas station owner — alleging price gouging. His office received 3,321 complaints related to Harvey.

17 Follow the money: industrial waste site in Alsen, local nonprofit organization and neighbors at odds even before the site has opened, Advocate, 9/12/17

http://www.theadvocate.com/baton_rouge/news/environment/article_5097d468-97d7-11e7-9cec-9b2057590393.html

A three-way argument has broken out among the owners of an industrial waste site in the Alsen community north of Baton Rouge, a local nonprofit and residents of the area. In 2007, the owners of the Brooklawn Drive facility signed a contract with a newly formed nonprofit. The intent was for the company to donate money to benefit the Alsen and St. Irma Lee neighborhoods in exchange for building a new site to accept hazardous waste.

18 Texas begins long march toward recovery from Hurricane Harvey, Tribune, 9/12/17

http://baycitytribune.com/news/article_ad481804-9835-11e7-8f7f-1312ca29281a.html

As contaminated waters receded and mountains of debris from flooded homes and ruined belongings grew last week, a picture of post-hurricane Texas developed and the process of weighing impacts to lives, property and infrastructure began. Gov. Greg Abbott delivered a series of announcements and proclamations related to catastrophic flooding and wind damage brought by Hurricane Harvey to more than 50 Gulf Coast and inland counties in late August and early September.

19 Koch Brothers Versus Small Town USA, Earth Island Journal, 9/12/17

http://www.earthisland.org/journal/index.php/elist/eListRead/koch_brothers_versus_small_town_usa/

The riveting Company Town is one of the hardest-hitting documentaries ever made about environmental racism in America. It is to the eco-justice movement what Barbara Kopple's 1976 Best Documentary Academy Award winner Harlan County USA was to class struggle or Al Gore's 2007 An Inconvenient Truth was to climate change or Josh Fox's Oscar-nominated 2010 Gasland was to fracking. It appears to be a classic case of environmental injustice, wherein people of color and the poor are singled out to bear the brunt of well-funded, string-pulling corporations and businesses.

20 River authority says flooding has led to death threats, ABC, 9/13/17

<http://abc13.com/river-authority-says-flooding-has-led-to-death-threats-/2410079/>

Frustration and blame over severe flooding in the Kingwood area has led to death threats, according to the San Jacinto River Authority. It all stems from questions over the group's decision making before and immediately after the flooding related to Hurricane Harvey. Some Kingwood homeowners said those in control of dams and waterways like the SJRA may have some liability for the decision they made before the water started to rise.

21 TCEQ investigating claim that Hurricane Harvey swept Portland plant's material into bay, Caller Times, 9/12/17

<http://www.caller.com/story/news/2017/09/12/tceq-investigating-claim-hurricane-harvey-swept-portland-plants-material-into-bay/657585001/>

Texas Commission on Environmental Quality officials on Monday confirmed they were investigating a claim material from a Portland iron production facility was swept into Corpus Christi Bay following Hurricane Harvey's landfall last month. "The TCEQ received information from a resident regarding concerns that metallic black dust from residents' homes and the Voestalpine plant was swept into a lake and then into the bay," Andrew Keese, media relations specialist with the TCEQ, said in an e-mail to the Corpus Christi Caller-Times.

22 Homeland Insecurity: How ready is New Mexico for when disaster strikes?, NM Political Report, 9/12/17

<http://nmpoliticalreport.com/456144/homeland-insecurity-how-ready-is-new-mexico-for-when-disaster-strikes/>

David Silver thinks about the bad things: floods, fires, nuclear meltdowns, zombie apocalypses. As the city of Santa Fe's emergency management director, it's his job and, though that last one might sound goofy, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention a few years ago created a graphic novel about a zombie pandemic moving across the country.

23 Air quality alert in effect Wednesday in central Oklahoma, Oklahoman, 9/13/17

<http://newsok.com/article/5563883>

An air quality alert is in effect Wednesday for central Oklahoma, the National Weather Service reports. The alert covers Canadian, Cleveland, Grady, Lincoln, Logan, McClain, Oklahoma, and Pottawatomie counties. The Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality advises people with respiratory or heart problems to limit outdoor activity and physical activities due to high concentrations of ozone, the weather service reports.

24 Ozone Alert issued for Tulsa County Wednesday, ABC Tulsa, 9/12/17

<http://ktul.com/news/local/ozone-alert-issued-for-tulsa-county-wednesday>

The Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality has issued an Ozone Alert for the Tulsa metro Wednesday.

25 Meeting focuses on Plum fracking wastewater disposal project, Trib Live, 9/12/17

<http://triblive.com/local/plum/12725221-74/meeting-focuses-on-plum-fracking-wastewater-disposal-project>

A meeting to discuss a proposed wastewater injection well in Plum will feature experts in the field of fracking — a technique to extract oil and gas from rock by injecting high-pressure mixtures of water, sand or gravel and chemicals. Council President Michael Doyle said he hopes to hear from those for and against the project. A registration form to sign-up for the meeting is expected to be available on the borough's website this week.